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HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL POSTAGE PREPAID IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE NOTED BELOW MY SIGNATURE

Daniel B. Ruble

Daniel B. Ruble
Registration No. 40,794

DATE: May 1, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Galen R. Hatfield

Serial No.: 09/268,892

Filing Date: March 16, 1999

Title: AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM AND METHODOLOGY

Group Art Unit: 2881

Examiner: K. Nguyen

Docket No.: D-43025-0

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

MAY - 7 2003

RECEIVED

Mail Stop Petition

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Request for Status of
PETITION UNDER 37 CFR §1.181 FROM PREMATURE FINAL REJECTION**

On March 4, 2003, Applicant filed a Petition under 37 CFR §1.181 for withdrawal of the premature final rejection of the above-identified application. Applicant respectfully requests information on the status of that petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel B. Ruble

Daniel B. Ruble
Registration No. 40,794

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Date: May 1, 2003